THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country rests with the State Governments and U.T. Administrations. Decisions regarding opening of Fair Price Shops, eligibility criteria for issue of ration cards to bonafide consumers and operation procedures and regulatory measures are taken by the State Governments and U.T. Administrations. Bonafide residents of a State are generally issued ration cards for getting access to PDS. The Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has reported that bonafide residents fulfilling requirements laid down under the Delhi Specified Articles (Regulation of Distribution) Order 1981 are issued ration cards. Ration card is not intended to be linked to any other benefit or confer any entlement other than access to PDS.

Assessment regarding working of Super Bazar

725. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the working of the Super Bazar recently;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and steps taken thereon; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on various projects during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Regular assessment and review of the functioning of Super Bazar is done by the Government periodically In case of any shortcoming or irregularity coming to notice, the Super Bazar is advised to take immediate remedial measures and submit compliance report.

(c) Super Bazar has incurred expenditure of Rs. 87.71 lakhs, Rs. 98.08 lakhs and Rs. 103.40 lakhs during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 on various projects such as setting up of Departmental Stores, Automatic packing unit, Computerisation, Renovation of branches etc.

Prices of essential comodities in Super Bazar

726. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of the rise in the prices of essential commodities in the Super Bazar in comparison to the rates of 1990; and

(b) what are the reasons for this rise in prices and what steps/measures are being taken by Government to control the prices of the essential commodities in the Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) As per details in statement (*See* below)

(b) All the essential items are procured from manufacturers/open market. Hence the selling price has a direct bearing on the procurement cost. The margin of profit earned by the Super Bazar on all such items has almost been static.